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**Commander's
Corner**

This week Command Sgt. Maj. James Singletary of the 201st Military Intelligence Brigade talks about the unit's structure.

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BOSS honored

Post BOSS team recognized for designated driver program at conference.

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Energy savvy

Public Works given the "Power Play" award at Seahawks game.

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Cascade Steel

Active and reserve components wrap up week-long exercise Saturday on post.

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Liver transplant

Madigan Army Medical Center helps girl receive gift in 8 hours.

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Haunted House

Morale, Welfare and Recreation hosts annual Haunted House on post until Halloween.

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NOTICES

Time falls back

Daylight savings time ends Sunday. Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour.

**Volunteers
needed**

Forty volunteers are needed Oct. 31, 4 p.m. to 11 p.m., for the Better Opportunities for Single Soldier's Haunted House. For more information, call 967-5636 or 691-9699.



Joe Barrentine

62nd Medical Brigade Commander Col. Jay M. Harmon III hands out coins to his soldiers for a job well done in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Brigade celebrates homecoming

Several units return from Iraq, many still deployed

By Joe Barrentine
Northwest Guardian

Dozens of families and friends of soldiers from the 62nd Medical Brigade turned out Oct. 17 at the Soldiers Field House to welcome home several of the brigade's units. Deployed nearly six months ago in support of Operation Iraqi Free-

dom, units have been trickling home over the last several weeks as mission requirements allowed.

"We told the kids he was on a trip to the desert," said Jane Peper. Her husband, Sgt. Matthew Peper, along with the rest of the 551st Medical Company (Medical Logistics) was deployed for about four months and she said she's glad he's back so soon.

"It was tough with the two children," Peper said. "I've got a list of things for him to do already."

Brigade Commander Col. Jay M. Harmon III said the mission

changed often but, to the credit of his soldiers, all the units handled it well.

"Things are going to change in our mission and our daily lives," Harmon said. "How we handle them determines our value as leaders."

Members of the family readiness group and two embedded civilian journalists were recognized for their efforts during the deployment and several companies were recognized for their service.

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JCS chairman visits post



Sgt. 1st Class Gary Ogilvie

Sgt. Matthew S. Jones, HHC, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment, shows Gen. Richard B. Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the inner workings of a Stryker.

Myers gives thumbs up to 3rd Brigade soldiers

By Steven Field
Northwest Guardian

Gen. Richard B. Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, came to Fort Lewis Tuesday to bid farewell and show support to the first Stryker brigade before its departure to Iraq.

"I have a lot of confidence in the leadership of this brigade, a lot of confidence in the soldiers and my guess is they are going to be very great over there," Myers said.

Myers, the four-star Air Force general who holds the highest military position in the Department of Defense, planned the visit as a chance to see the Stryker vehicles and talk to soldiers in 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, before their deployment.

Myers and his wife, Mary Jo, were hosted by Lt. Gen. Edward Soriano, commander, 1st Corps and Fort Lewis, and his wife, Vivian, during his trip to the Puget Sound.

Myers began his day on post eating breakfast with soldiers of 3rd Bde.

"I get a lot out of just talking to the men and

women, having breakfast with them this morning, listening to how they think they are prepared for this deployment and what their concerns are," Myers said.

"I'm a little nervous. I think everyone is," said Pfc. David Herring about his upcoming deployment. "But I am ready to go."

Myers said the concerns expressed were normal ones, but did not stem from a lack of preparedness.

"(They expressed) standard concerns. None about training, none about leadership, none about equipment," he said.

Following breakfast, he attended a briefing on the technical aspects of the Stryker and was shown seven variants of the vehicle.

The vehicles 3rd Bde. will use in Iraq had already shipped out, so Myers saw new vehicles being issued to the 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, the Army's second Stryker brigade.

The general had a chance to ask several deploying soldiers about the different Stryker variants and design features, as well as get a first-hand impression of the new vehicle from the soldiers.



Joe Barrentine

Myers talks to local media on post Tuesday. He came to show his support for the deploying 3rd Brigade.

"I thought his visit to see the vehicles was great, and it shows he has a great concern about how the vehicles are going to perform out there," said Staff Sgt. David Han. "He asked if I had confidence in the vehicle, and I told him yes, I did."

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Soldiers receive Bronze Star Medals

Pvt. Abel Treviño
28th Public Affairs Detachment

Nine soldiers from the 513th Transportation Company were awarded Bronze Star Medals at an awards ceremony in Wilson Physical Fitness Center Monday.

The Bronze Star Medal is awarded to any person, who distinguishes himself through heroic or meritorious achievement, during a time of military conflict. The medals were awarded by 1st Corps and Fort Lewis Commander Lt. Gen. Edward Soriano and the 593rd Corps Support Group Commander Col. Richard G. Schenck.

● 1st Lt. Ray Fails, platoon leader, was selected to lead the

first theater line haul unit to deliver supplies to Baghdad. His platoon successfully completed the mission and in the course of the deployment traveled over 220,000 miles without incident or accident.

● 2nd Lt. Christina Girotti, platoon leader, assumed duties in Iraq as the unit movement officer and was responsible for deployment of the unit's equipment. Her platoon transported needed supplies to Logistic Support Area Bushmaster and also assisted in moving ammunition by helicopter sling load to the front lines.

"I'm honored to receive this award with such great peers," Girotti said.

● 2nd Lt. Weiquing Su, platoon

leader, and his platoon crossed into Iraq on the first night of the war to an unsecured area in support of 3rd Infantry Division. After returning safely, his platoon was immediately dispatched to carry needed supplies and ammunition to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Unit, who were fighting to secure Naisiriyah, Iraq.

● Sgt. 1st Class James Stanley, truck master, was directly responsible for the 513th maintaining the safest driving record of any unit in the 7th Transportation Group. He performed both his own duties and those of a first sergeant as he coordinated the unit's tactical jump to a logistical support area.

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NCO volunteers build fence for Mann Junior High School

Spc. Steven J. Schneider
Northwest Guardian

Six 593rd Corps Support Group noncommissioned officers set an example of Army service to the community by building a fence for the Iva Alice Mann Junior High School in Lakewood Tuesday.

The leaders were putting up the structure to beautify the school as part of the 593rd's Community Connectors program.

"The project needed to be done to enhance the appearance of the school, and we're here to do it," said Master Sgt. Robert Chatman, host nations coordinator.

Projects of this nature help

maintain a good relationship with the outside communities.

"The community depends on the military for support, and the military depends on the community also," Chatman said. "It's a two-way street."

Since many soldiers have children who attend schools in the surrounding community, it's important to show support for those schools, said Sgt. Maj. Freddie Siyufy, support operations sergeant major.

"It's great thing to do," he said. "I have a daughter who goes here."

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